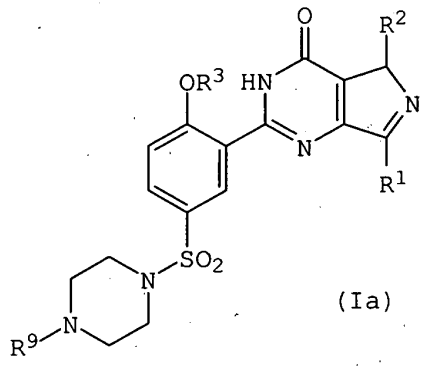
IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently amended) The ~~pharmaceutical agent according to Claim 1,~~ method of claim 5 wherein the pharmaceutical agent comprises a compound of formula (Ia):

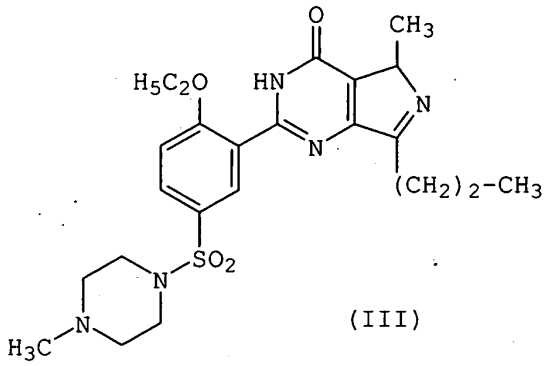


(Ia)

~~in which the groups R^1 to R^3 have the meaning specified in Claim 1, and~~ wherein R^9 is an alkyl group having 1-4 C atoms which, optionally, are substituted ~~or replaced by~~ with halogen or replaced by halogen;

or ~~of~~ a pharmaceutically acceptable salt ~~of such a compound~~ thereof.

3. (Currently amended) The ~~pharmaceutical agent according to Claim 1, comprising~~ the method of claim 5 wherein the pharmaceutical agent comprises a compound of formula (III):

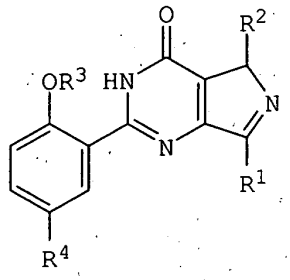


(III)

or ~~of~~ a pharmaceutically acceptable salt ~~of such a compound~~ thereof.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently amended) A ~~chemotherapeutic~~ method for a chemotherapeutic treatment of neuropathies characterized by application to a patient of a pharmaceutical agent comprising a compound of formula (I):



(I)

in which

R^1=C_{1-6}alkyl, optionally substituted with halogen,

R^2=hydrogen or C_{1-4}alkyl, optionally substituted with halogen or replaced with halogen,

R^3=C_{2-4}alkyl, optionally substituted with halogen,

R^4=$SO_2NR^5R^6$,

C_{1-4}alkyl, optionally substituted with NR^5R^6, CN, $CONR^5R^6$, CO_2R^7, or halogen,

C_{2-4}-alkenyl, optionally substituted with NR^5R^6, $SONR^5R^6$, $CONR^5R^6$, CO_2R^7, or halogen,

C_{2-4}-alkanoyl, optionally substituted with NR^5R^6, $SONR^5R^6$, $CONR^5R^6$, CO_2R^7, or halogen,

R^5 and R^6, independent of one another, represent hydrogen or C_{1-4}alkyl, or, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, represent a pyrrolidino, piperidino, morpholino, 4-(NR^8)-1-pipera-

zinyl or 1-imidazolyl ring which, optionally, may be substituted with one or two C_{1-4}alkyl groups,

R^7=hydrogen or C_{1-4}alkyl, optionally, substituted with fluorine, and

R^8=hydrogen, C_{1-3}alkyl, or hydroxy alkyl having 1-4 C atoms, or ~~of~~ a pharmaceutically acceptable salt ~~of such a compound~~ thereof.

6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 5, wherein from 1-100 mg/day of said pharmaceutical agent is administered to a patient being treated.

7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 5, wherein from 5-50 mg/day of said pharmaceutical agent is administered to a patient being treated.

8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 5, wherein from 25-50 mg/day of said pharmaceutical agent is administered to a patient being treated.

9. (New) The method of claim 5 wherein the neuropathy comprises a peripheral diabetic polyneuropathy.

10. (New) The method of claim 5 wherein the neuropathy comprises gastroparesis.